

would allow the Federal Government to investigate and punish crimes motivated by hate.

The murder of Matthew Shepard is the manifestation of the enduring bigotry that still prevails in our society. Our Nation should take action and pass this responsible legislation which would enable Federal law enforcement officials to fight these crimes and punish the perpetrators.

IN HONOR OF RONALD J. TOBER

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 18, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ronald Tober for his many years of service to the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. He plans to celebrate with friends and family at a farewell dinner on October 22, 1999.

Robert Tober has had a very successful career in the public transit industry. Mr. Tober has served as the General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority since May, 1988. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Tober served as Director of Transit for the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle for six years. For two years he was Deputy Transportation Coordinator for Metropolitan Dade County in Miami. He also served as Assistant Director of Operations and Chief Operations Planning Officer for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority in Boston.

Robert Tober is recognized nationally as one of the top transit managers in the country, having served over twenty-eight years in the public transit industry. Mr. Tober has carried his dedication to transportation into leadership positions for several transit organizations. While serving as President of the Ohio Public Transit Association, he helped develop better transportation for the citizens of the state of Ohio. He also has been noted for promoting and hiring women and minorities in the industry.

Mr. Tober has been a great asset to the state of Ohio and city of Cleveland. His innovative ideas and leadership have guided the development of the public transit industry. His wife, Terry and four children are so proud of him.

I urge my fellow colleagues to please join me in congratulating Mr. Tober on his many accomplishments and commemorate him for his dedication to the public transit industry.

HONORING CINCINNATI'S 1999 TALL STACKS CELEBRATION

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 18, 1999*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cincinnati's 1999 Tall Stacks celebration and the special national recognition it is receiving from the Library of Congress. This year, the Library of Congress is celebrating its bicentennial with an exciting new Local Legacies Project, which will document America's heritage by preserving unique cultural events and activities across the country.

From the earliest days of recorded history in Southwest Ohio, our traditions and culture have been shaped by the Ohio River. That's why I was delighted to nominate the recent Tall Stacks celebration as our region's contribution to this project.

The Tall Stacks event, which took place last week in Cincinnati, was a great celebration of our region's riverboat heritage. Nineteen riverboats from across the nation—including several classic steam-powered vessels—came to Greater Cincinnati to recreate a bygone era. And many thousands of visitors came to our region to take a step back in time and to share in this celebration.

Through its inclusion in the Local Legacies project, Tall Stacks will receive additional national recognition for its role in commemorating an important chapter in our regional and national history. And, through the National Digital Library Program, people from across the country and throughout the world will be able to share the excitement of Tall Stacks through the Library of Congress website (<http://www.loc.gov>).

We have a rich and distinguished history in Southwest Ohio. From our region's active involvement with the Underground Railroad to the Suspension Bridge, Fountain Square and our many well-preserved historic areas, we have a tremendous heritage of which we can all be proud. The riverboat era is an important part of that heritage, as Tall Stacks reminds us now and into the future.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR E.  
WILLIAM CROTTY

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 18, 1999*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to pay tribute to one of our Nation's exceptional diplomats, E. William Crotty, Ambassador to Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This able facilitator of American diplomacy passed on Sunday, October 10, 1999. He is survived by his loving wife, Valerie Kushner, and several outstanding children.

Ambassador Crotty was nominated by President William Clinton on April 28, 1998. Prior to this appointment, Ambassador Crotty was an attorney in Daytona Beach, FL. Ambassador Crotty served as a senior managing partner of one of the top law firms in the United States, where he was recognized as a leading lawyer in his area of practice, which included corporate and business transactions, banking and finance law, and taxation and real estate law.

Ambassador Crotty served appointments to at least 11 different commissions, including the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad by President Clinton in 1996 and the Judicial Foundation Board by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell in 1989. He was quite active in the Democratic Party, serving on the National Finance Board of the Clinton-Gore Campaign, as a Democratic National Party Trustee, and as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Democratic National Committee Board of Directors from 1984 to 1988.

Ambassador Crotty was quite active in civil affairs, serving as chairman or member of the board of directors for numerous charitable and educational organizations, including the United Way of Volusia County, the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, the Father Lopez High School Board, and the Volusia County Easter Seals. His indefatigable civic service earned him the title of Outstanding Citizen of the Year and Young Man of the Year from the Daytona Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Born in Claremont, NH, Ambassador Crotty exemplified leadership at an early age. He was an exceptional high school student at Belkows Falls High School in Vermont where he was a three-time state champion in tennis and graduated salutatorian of his high school class. Ambassador Crotty graduated from Dartmouth College, where he again excelled in athletics, making captain of his tennis team while also playing varsity squash and basketball. Ambassador Crotty received his law degree from the University of Michigan and obtained a master of law in taxation from New York University Law School.

The people of the United States, as well as the people of Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines will miss my friend—a great American and personal representative of the President of the United States.

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE  
PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

**HON. MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 18, 1999*

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, should tax-exempt bonds, subsidized by our constituents—be used by local authorities to enter into direct competition with private enterprise, outside the traditional functions of government? I don't believe so, and I would imagine most Americans would agree.

But that, Mr. Speaker, is the question addressed by the legislation I am introducing today, the Private Enterprise Protection Act of 1999. This legislation will help protect taxpayers from having the U.S. Treasury subsidize local government efforts to engage in unfair competition with private businesses.

As my colleagues are aware, tax-exempt bonds enable State and local governments to borrow at below market interest rates in order to finance public projects. This is generally a good program allowing State and local governments to reduce borrowing costs and enabling them to build public facilities for fewer tax dollars.

However, while the program has all good intentions, I would imagine that a vast majority of the American people would agree that tax-exempt bonds should be limited to use for projects which directly benefit the public good, but not to help the government engage in competition with private enterprise.

I was pleased to see my colleague from Texas, Mr. HALL, introduce H.R. 2756 this summer. His bill also aims to fix the problem I raise. In fact, the bill I introduce today is very similar to the Hall bill, but it incorporates several changes to reflect comments received on H.R. 2756.